



## **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of International Women's Day**

**March 8, 2011**

*"My Administration has elevated the rights of women and girls abroad as a critical aspect of our foreign and national security policy. Empowering women across the globe is not simply the right thing to do, it is also smart foreign policy."* President Obama words.

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## **1.The Launch of the 100 Women Initiative: Empowering Women and Girls Through International Exchanges**

Hillary Rodham Clinton Remarks

Secretary of State

Washington, DC

March 7, 2011

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you. I am so excited to see all of you and to have this opportunity to participate in the first-ever Empowering Women and Girls through International Exchanges. And for me personally, it's very empowering to see all of you and to know a little bit about the stories behind each of you being here.

I'm also delighted that we have young students from the Kipp Academy and E.L. Haynes, who are representing the next generation of leaders. (Applause.) And we will be honoring tomorrow 10 women, eight of whom will be here who are receiving the International Women of Courage awards. There are two that could not come, but the eight who will be here – you will learn more about them and what they have done in their countries when we talk about the extraordinary steps each has taken in the face of tremendous struggle to stand up for women's rights and human rights, democracy and opportunities.

And for you who are part of the 100 Women Initiative that we are launching today, I am so pleased to have this chance to welcome you formally to the United States and to the State Department. You're here because people around you see you as a leader. Now, sometimes those of us who are put in that position wonder why. We say to ourselves, me? Oh, that's hard to believe. But always remember that there are those who look to you for your courage, your conviction, your compassion. And they have told us that they see you as leaders.

This is especially important for me because I believe strongly that every person – man and woman, boy and girl – has a God-given right to participate and to go as far as his or her hard work and talents will take them.

So for me, investing in women and girls is smart. It pays off. It's not only the right thing to do – and I see some heads nodding – because you've seen the differences in the lives around you, in your own life as to what it means for someone to believe in a girl or a woman and to give her the tools to make the most out of her own life. But it's also true that this is important if you want to alleviate hunger – you teach women, who are most of the farmers in the world how to get more harvest out of their hard work. If you want to

alleviate poverty, you give women access to credit and opportunities to actually start to generate income for themselves and their families. And you have been working in these and so many areas. You are established and emerging leaders from 92 countries. You are leaders from the academic world, from business, from civil society, from the media. You are pioneers and you are fearless supporters of those who need a champion.

Now, there are many stories that could be told about each and every one of you. Just a few that give our broader audience an idea of the work that you are doing. Raquel Fernandez from Paraguay – where's Raquel – Raquel Fernandez from Paraguay connects with women and girls trapped in a life of servitude and brings them off the streets to break the cycle of prostitution and marginalization. (Applause.) In Sudan, Aisha Humad – where's Aisha – Aisha is empowering women by teaching them to stand up for themselves and to stand up for their own rights, which is sometimes a difficult case to make. But Aisha, thank you for what you're doing for the women and girls of Sudan. (Applause.) In Yemen, Ishraq Al-Subaee – where is Ishraq, there you are – (applause) – she is – she's a busy women. She's not only a doctor and a medical researcher, but she conducts clinics for young people on everything from vocational skills to the basic principles of human rights and democracy, and that is so important in your country. Thank you such much, Doctor. (Applause.)

Now, these stories are just a small sample. I could be up here all day talking about each and every one of you. And as we go through the days, there will be more opportunities to learn more about what you're doing and what we all can do to help you.

Now, I would like to acknowledge two of the 100 women who could not be here. One of them is a leader in the Women's Legal Community in Libya, and she could not get out of her country safely. (Applause.) Let us think of her and all of the brave men and women of Libya. (Applause.)

And then the other, from Egypt, couldn't make it through the checkpoints and the road closures that are unfortunately still preventing easy travel, and she couldn't get to the airport. Now, we hope both the woman from Libya and Egypt can join us in a future exchange.

Many of you have also traveled a long distance to be here, and in the next three weeks we are going to send you across the United States. We are going to have you meet business leaders who have confronted challenges and succeeded. We are going to have you meet government officials and those who are trying to make our government at the local, state, and federal level work better. We are going to have you talk with

women entrepreneurs who have learned how to set their own businesses up and make them as successful as possible.

You will be going to cities such as Des Moines, Iowa; New York, New Orleans, San Francisco, and others. And not only do we want you to meet Americans and talk with them about what they're doing; we want you to talk about your own experiences, your own cultures, and what America and Americans can do to be better friends and partners to you in what you do at home.

We think Americans will learn a lot from you, and we hope that these next three weeks will be a valuable opportunity not only during the time you're here, but as you go home we want to stay in touch with you through the internet, through every other means of communication. We want to be there for you if you have questions or you have other problems that maybe we can offer some suggestions about.

Now, this program represents just one of the ways that we at the State Department and in the Obama Administration are elevating the role of women and girls in our foreign policy. We are working with the private sector to provide grants to NGOs in many countries in order to help women and girls. We are encouraging your governments and your own business sector to invest more in women and bring women into the financial system. We think that's a good return on investment for those banks and other financial entities.

We have something called the mWomen program, and that is to try to get more mobile technology – cell phones – into the hands of more poor women, because there's such a gap. Even though there are now 2 billion cell phones in the world, there are at least 2 billion more poor people who could use those cell phones for all kinds of purposes.

We want to make sure that we hear from you about your experience and you give us your best ideas. We are going to be bringing even more women leaders to the United States. Every year, 5,200 entrepreneurs, politicians, civil servants, human rights activists, teachers, and others visit our country. When I travel around the world – and I've traveled hundreds of thousands of miles in the last two years. I think the last time I looked, it was over 450,000 miles, and I'm, like, perpetually jetlagged, to be honest with you. (Laughter.)

But when I travel to other countries, I always meet somebody who's been on a visitor program to the United States. And that makes me feel good because I learn how it helps to shape their lives. And as I travel, I always take time out to meet with women, because I have a very strong belief that diplomacy, being the Secretary of State, is not

just about governments meeting governments and government officials meeting government officials. Ultimately, I think it is people-to-people relationships that make a difference, that can really give you the strength to keep going through very difficult times.

And we know that many of the global challenges that we're facing in the world today are going to require a lot of strength and a lot of energy to keep going forward. Each of you is really an ambassador – an ambassador for yourself, for your family, for your society, for your country, for your values and your ideals. And I want you to feel that way because you are a very valued and honored guest in the United States.

I'm going to be turning this over now to a panel of women who work with me, so that they can talk with you and you have a chance to ask them questions. Each and every one of them is a very special woman in her own right. And Ann, if I could, I'd like to introduce all of you as you maybe come up. Would that be all right?

And I think it's Ann Stock, who some of you have seen already. Ann worked – (applause) – and it's Cheryl and Melanne?

STAFF: I'm sorry?

SECRETARY CLINTON: Is Cheryl and Melanne next to the – great.

STAFF: Yes, Cheryl and Judith.

SECRETARY CLINTON: Oh, great. Ann Stock worked for me the first time in the White House, when my husband was president. And so I've known Ann for many years now. She's a good friend. She's worked in the White House, she's worked at the Kennedy Center – which some of you may have seen when you came into Washington – and now she's here in the State Department, running our educational and cultural programs.

The next person I want to introduce is Cheryl Mills. Cheryl Mills has been – (applause) – a friend of mine for a long time. She was a lawyer in the White House, and a very famous one. If you ever Google her, you will see why. (Laughter.) She is fearless and she is one of the most highly organized people I've ever worked with. She is my chief of staff, she is my counselor, she basically runs the place. So she will be able to talk with you as well.

And finally, Judith McHale – is Judith here yet? She's on her way? Well, I'm going to let Ann and Cheryl start. But Judith McHale, whom you will meet in a minute – you all can

sit down – Judith McHale is the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy. But before that, she was one of the three original founders of the Discovery Channel. Have any of you ever heard of the Discovery Channel? Well, Judith was one of the people who started the Discovery Channel, which I think has programming in maybe 150-or-60 countries. And so she is a very successful businesswoman, a very successful investor and entrepreneur, who I enticed to come to work for me to try to do a better job of communicating on behalf of our country.

And I'll be really honest with you. I need your help on this because I think that in the last several years, particularly a lot of young people in the world don't really understand what the United States stands for and what we do and what we try to do to help people. So I need your advice as you go through your time here about how we can do a better job to communicate about who we are and why we want to help other people, because we want each and every one of you and every country you come from to have the same opportunities – to have a democracy where everybody is included; to have strong institutions; to end corruption; to create a level playing field where, no matter who you are or who your parents are, you have a chance to be a successful person if you're willing to work hard. And that's the message we try to give to our young students here about what it means to have a chance to get an education and to grow up here in the United States.

So I am thrilled you're here. I'm going to turn it over to Ann and Cheryl, and they'll be ready to answer your questions. And please give us your best advice, and we are not afraid of criticism. Somebody said to me once, "How does it feel when you're criticized?" I said, "You know, I've been criticized for so many years, I hardly even know it happens anymore." (Laughter.) It just kind of goes with the territory. If you're going to be an outspoken woman and you're going to stand up for yourself and you're going to try to stand up for other people, guess what? You're going to be criticized.

So this is Judith McHale, who I just bragged on and told all about being a Discovery founder. Thank you all very, very much. (Applause.)

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/03/157829.htm>



## **2. Presidential Proclamation--Women's History Month, 2011**

The White House

February 28, 2011

During Women's History Month, we reflect on the extraordinary accomplishments of women and honor their role in shaping the course of our Nation's history. Today, women have reached heights their mothers and grandmothers might only have imagined. Women now comprise nearly half of our workforce and the majority of students in our colleges and universities. They scale the skies as astronauts, expand our economy as entrepreneurs and business leaders, and serve our country at the highest levels of government and our Armed Forces. In honor of the pioneering women who came before us, and in recognition of those who will come after us, this month, we recommit to erasing the remaining inequities facing women in our day.

This year, we commemorate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, a global celebration of the economic, political, and social achievements of women past, present, and future. International Women's Day is a chance to pay tribute to ordinary women throughout the world and is rooted in women's centuries-old struggle to participate in society on an equal footing with men. This day reminds us that, while enormous progress has been made, there is still work to be done before women achieve true parity.

My Administration has elevated the rights of women and girls abroad as a critical aspect of our foreign and national security policy. Empowering women across the globe is not simply the right thing to do, it is also smart foreign policy. This knowledge is reflected in the National Security Strategy of the United States, which recognizes that countries are more peaceful and prosperous when their female citizens enjoy equal rights, equal voices, and equal opportunities. Today, we are integrating a focus on women and girls in all our diplomatic efforts, and incorporating gender considerations in every aspect of our development assistance. We are working to build the participation of women into all aspects of conflict prevention and resolution, and we are continuing to lead in combating the scourge of conflict related sexual violence, both bilaterally and at the United Nations.

In America, we must lead by example in protecting women's rights and supporting their empowerment. Despite our progress, too many women continue to be paid less than male workers, and women are significantly underrepresented in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. By tapping into the potential and talents of all our citizens, we can utilize an enormous source of economic growth and prosperity. The White House Council on Women and Girls has continued to



remove obstacles to achievement by addressing the rate of violence against women, supporting female entrepreneurs, and prioritizing the economic security of women. American families depend largely on the financial stability of women, and my Administration continues to prioritize policies that promote workplace flexibility, access to affordable, quality health care and child care, support for family caregivers, and the enforcement of equal pay laws. I have also called on every agency in the Federal Government to be part of the solution to ending violence against women, and they have responded with unprecedented cooperation to protect victims of domestic and sexual violence and enable survivors to break the cycle of abuse.

As we reflect on the triumphs of the past, we must also look to the limitless potential that lies ahead. To win the future, we must equip the young women of today with the knowledge, skills, and equal access to reach for the promise of tomorrow. My Administration is making unprecedented investments in education and is working to expand opportunities for women and girls in the STEM fields critical for growth in the 21st century economy.

As we prepare to write the next chapter of women's history, let us resolve to build on the progress won by the trailblazers of the past. We must carry forward the work of the women who came before us and ensure our daughters have no limits on their dreams, no obstacles to their achievements, and no remaining ceilings to shatter.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2011 as Women's History Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month and to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, 2011 with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that honor the history, accomplishments, and contributions of American women. I also invite all Americans to visit [www.WomensHistoryMonth.gov](http://www.WomensHistoryMonth.gov) to learn more about the generations of women who have shaped our history.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

BARACK OBAMA

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/02/28/presidential-proclamation-womens-history-month-2011>

### 3. Día Internacional de la Mujer muestra cómo la mujer puede ayudar a otras a tener éxito



La secretaria de Hillary Rodham Clinton con niñas en un refugio en Camboya



Shirley Chisholm fue la primera mujer afroestadounidense elegida al Congreso de Estados Unidos.

Washington – “Si consigo ver más lejos, es porque he conseguido pararme en hombros de gigantes”, escribió el gran científico e intelectual Isaac Newton en 1676. Los logros de la mujer, también, deben mucho a las “gigantes” que las precedieron – mujeres que con valentía soportaron burlas desagradables y superaron enormes obstáculos para alcanzar las mismas oportunidades que estaban disponibles para los hombres.

Este año marca el 100º aniversario del primer Día Internacional de la Mujer, que se celebra el 8 de marzo, reconoce las luchas y logros pasados de la mujer y se centra en lo que se necesita realizar para proporcionar mayores oportunidades a la mujer en la actualidad.

El Día Internacional de la Mujer es un feriado oficial en 15 países (Armenia, Azerbaiyán, Bielorrusia, Bulgaria, China, Kazajistán, Kirguistán, Macedonia, Moldavia, Mongolia, Rusia, Tayikistán, Ucrania, Uzbekistán y Vietnam); aunque la mayoría de los países celebran el día con miles de eventos. Según el sitio web oficial del Día Internacional de la Mujer, los países que auspician la mayoría de eventos para este día son el Reino Unido, Canadá, Estados Unidos e Irlanda.

Cada país elige un tema diferente cada año que refleja asuntos de género mundiales y locales. En Estados Unidos, el tema para 2011 es “Nuestra historia es nuestra fortaleza”.

Shirley Chisholm fue la primera mujer afroestadounidense elegida al Congreso de Estados Unidos. Entre las miles de estadounidenses que han abierto caminos para la mujer figuran Elizabeth Blackwell, la primera mujer en obtener un título médico en Estados Unidos (1849); Susanna Madora Salter, la primera mujer elegida para un cargo político en Estados Unidos cuando ganó las elecciones para alcaldesa de Argonia, Kansas, en 1887; Jane Addams, activista política y defensora de los derechos de la mujer, que fue la primera mujer estadounidense en ganar el Premio Nobel de la Paz (1931); y Shirley Chisholm, que en 1968 se convirtió en la primera mujer afroestadounidense en ser elegida para el Congreso de Estados Unidos.

En la actualidad, la mujer sigue haciendo historia y proporcionando los “amplios hombros” sobre los cuales otras mujeres consiguen ver más lejos hacia un futuro de mayores posibilidades. Condoleezza Rice, la primera mujer afroestadounidense en ocupar la posición de secretaria de Estado de Estados Unidos, estableció el Premio a las Mujeres de Coraje en 2007 para rendir homenaje a mujeres de todo el mundo que han mostrado un valor excepcional en el fomento de los derechos de la mujer. Hasta la fecha, 36 mujeres que representan a 27 países han recibido el reconocimiento por sus esfuerzos para impulsar los derechos de la mujer, acabar con la violencia contra la mujer y fomentar la salud de la mujer.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, la actual secretaria de Estado y la primera mujer en llegar a ser uno de los principales candidatos para la nominación presidencial en Estados Unidos cuando se postuló contra Barack Obama, ha sido una defensora de los derechos de la mujer durante mucho tiempo. Se ha unido al presidente Obama para promover enérgicamente los asuntos de la mujer tanto en Estados Unidos como en el extranjero.

A principios de su presidencia, el presidente Obama creó una posición en la Casa Blanca, ocupada actualmente por Lynn Rosenthal, para brindar asesoría al presidente y vicepresidente sobre asuntos de violencia doméstica y agresión sexual en Estados Unidos. El presidente creó también una nueva posición en el Departamento de Estado: La de embajadora en misión especial para Asuntos Mundiales de la Mujer. Melanne Verbeke, que ha tenido una larga carrera trabajando para el avance de la mujer, fue designada para esa posición con el objetivo de movilizar apoyo en todo el mundo para los derechos de la mujer y combatir la violencia contra mujeres y niñas en todas sus formas.

Para 2011, Clinton establecerá la “Iniciativa de 100 mujeres: Alentar a mujeres y niñas por medio del intercambio internacional” y una nueva iniciativa de salud materna e infantil. Clinton ha expresado que Estados Unidos “está haciendo de la mujer una

piedra angular de nuestra política exterior debido no sólo a que lo consideramos correcto, sino también porque creemos que es lo inteligente a hacer”.

“Invertir en el potencial de las mujeres y niñas del mundo”, según Clinton, “es una de las maneras más seguras de alcanzar el progreso económico mundial, la estabilidad política y una mayor prosperidad para la mujer –y el hombre– en todo el mundo”.

<http://www.america.gov/esp>

#### 4. Selected Web Pages



##### Office of Global Women's Issues

The Office of Global Women's Issues, led by Ambassador-at-Large Melanne Verveer, works for the political, economic, and social empowerment of women.

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/>



##### Council on Women and Girls

##### Council on Women and Girls

On March 11, 2009, President Obama signed an Executive Order creating the White House Council on Women and Girls. In his remarks at the signing, the President underscored that the purpose of the Council is "to ensure that each of the agencies in which they're charged takes into account the needs of women and girls in the policies they draft, the programs they create, the legislation they support" and that the true purpose of our government is "to ensure that in America, all things are still possible for all people."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/cwg>



##### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

[blog](#) | [web store](#)

##### The National Women's History Project

<http://www.nwhp.org/whm/index.php>



##### International Women's Day 2011



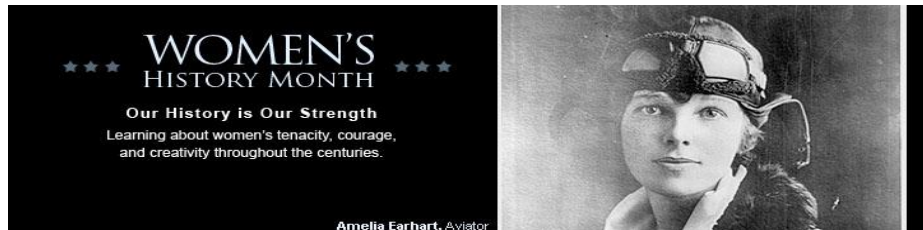
##### International Women's Day 2011 Centenary 1911-2011

<http://www.internationalwomensday.com/search.asp?country=223>

## Women of Influence

The 2011 theme for International Women's Day is: "Equal access to education, training and science and technology: Pathway to decent work for women."

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/iwd/index.html>



## Women's History Month

The Library of Congress

"Womenshistorymonth.gov is cosponsored by the Library of Congress, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Gallery of Art, the National Park Service, the Smithsonian Institution, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the National Archives and Records Administration, and is chock-full of program ideas and resources that are worthy of linking to from your library's website. Each of the Washington D.C.-based organizations contributing to this site also sponsors National Women's History Month programs, resource listings, digital collections, and activities, and there are easy links to these national resources from the collaborative site."

<http://www.womenshistorymonth.gov/>



**Census Bureau; Facts for Features on Women in the US, Women's History Month for 2011: Basic Statistics on Women**

[http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts\\_for\\_features\\_special\\_editions/cb11-ff04.html](http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb11-ff04.html)

## **White House Releases First Comprehensive Federal Report on the Status of American Women in Almost 50 Years**

The White House

March 01, 2011

This report entitled Women in America: Indicators of Social and Economic Well-Being, a statistical portrait showing how women are faring in the United States today and how their lives have changed over time. This is the first comprehensive federal report on women since 1963, when the Commission on the Status of Women, established by President Kennedy and chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt, produced a report on the conditions of women.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/03/01/white-house-releases-first-comprehensive-federal-report-status-american->

## **Microcredit Summit Campaign**

The report shows how microcredit can be a powerful tool for development and poverty alleviation, particularly for women.

[http://www.microcreditsummit.org/state\\_of\\_the\\_campaign\\_report/](http://www.microcreditsummit.org/state_of_the_campaign_report/)